In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 2-18 without prejudice.

Please amend Claim 1 and add new claims 19-31 as follows:

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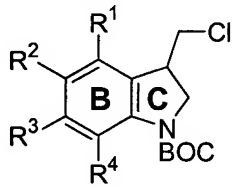
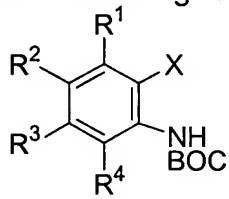
1. (once amended) A process for synthesizing a dihydroindole C-ring of a CC-1065/duocarmycin analog, the dihydroindole C-ring of a CC-1065/duocarmycin analog being represented by the following structure:



the process comprising the following steps:

Step A: allylating an *ortho*-haloaniline with 1,3-dichloropropene for forming a vinyl chloride, the *ortho*-haloaniline being represented by the following structure:



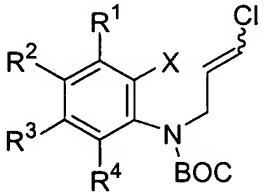
;

wherein:

R^1, R^2, R^3, and R^4 are radicals independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl(C1-C6), alkoxy, and arylalkoxy, with a proviso that R^1 and R^2, or R^2 and R^3 may form a fused 5- or 6-membered ring with or without a heteroatom; and

X is a halide selected from the group consisting of bromine and iodine; and

the vinyl chloride is represented by the following structure:



; then

A2 cont.

Step B: cyclizing the vinyl chloride of said step A for forming the dihydroindole C-ring of the CC-1065 / duocarmycin analog.

A3

19. (new claim) A process according to claim 1 wherein, in said Step A, the *ortho*-haloaniline is an *ortho*-bromoaniline.

20. (new claim) A process according to claim 1 wherein, in said Step A, the *ortho*-haloaniline is an *ortho*-iodoaniline.

21. (new claim) A process according to claim 1 wherein, in said Step A, the *ortho*-haloaniline is protected with a BOC group.

22. (new claim) A process according to claim 1 wherein, in said Step A, said allylation is catalyzed by the addition of a catalytic amount of tetra-*n*-butyl ammonium iodide.

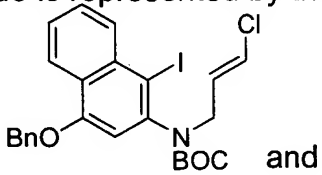
23. (new claim) A process according to claim 1 wherein, in said Step B, said cyclization is performed with an addition of tri-*n*-butyltin hydride.

24. (new claim) A process according to claim 23 wherein, in said Step B, said cyclization is catalyzed by the addition of a catalytic amount of AIBN.

25. (new claim) A process according to claim 24 wherein, in said Step B, said cyclization is performed using toluene as the solvent.

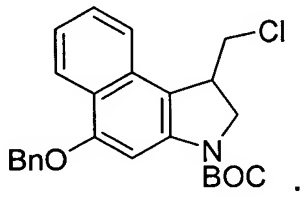
26. (new claim) A process according to claim 1 wherein:

in said Step A, the vinyl chloride is represented by the following structure:



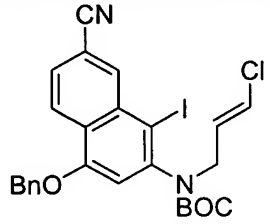
and

in said Step B, the dihydroindole C-ring of the CC-1065 / duocarmycin analog is represented by the following structure:



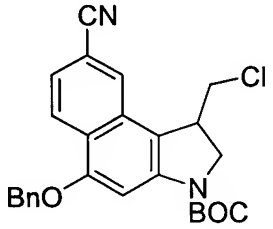
27. (new claim) A process according to claim 1 wherein:

in said Step A, the vinyl chloride is represented by the following structure:



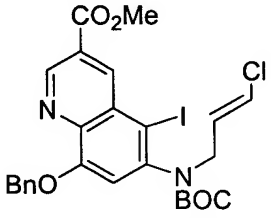
and

in said Step B, the dihydroindole C-ring of the CC-1065 / duocarmycin analog is represented by the following structure:



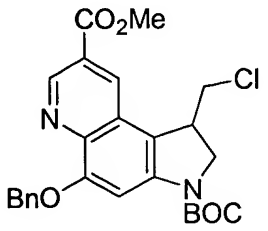
28. (new claim) A process according to claim 1 wherein:

in said Step A, the vinyl chloride is represented by the following structure:



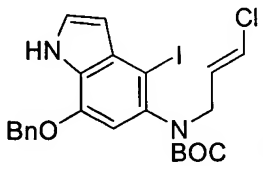
and

in said Step B, the dihydroindole C-ring of the CC-1065 / duocarmycin analog is represented by the following structure:



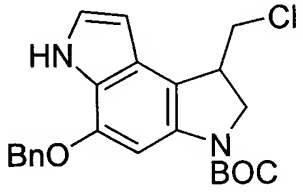
29. (new claim) A process according to claim 1 wherein:

in said Step A, the vinyl chloride is represented by the following structure:



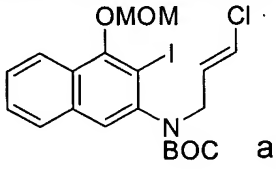
and

in said Step B, the dihydroindole C-ring of the CC-1065 / duocarmycin analog is represented by the following structure:



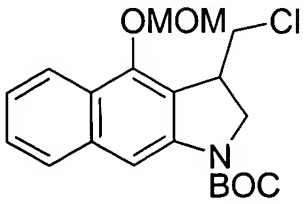
30. (new claim) A process according to claim 1 wherein:

in said Step A, the vinyl chloride is represented by the following structure:



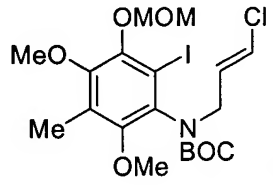
and

in said Step B, the dihydroindole C-ring of the CC-1065 / duocarmycin analog is represented by the following structure:



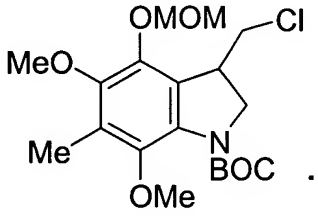
31. (new claim) A process according to claim 1 wherein:

in said Step A, the vinyl chloride is represented by the following structure:



and

in said Step B, the dihydroindole C-ring of the CC-1065 / duocarmycin analog is represented by the following structure:



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Respectfully submitted,

Oct 30, 2001

Date

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